

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 13, 14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #6,237,303 to ALLEN et al. Claims 2, 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #6,237,303 to ALLEN et al. in view of US Patent #6,012,256 to ASCHHEIM.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) insofar as the "supporting member contacting the supporting member," referred to in Applicant's claim 1, was not illustrated in the figures. Since the term "contacts" has been deleted from Applicant's new and amended claims (and replaced with "supported by") it is not believed that any drawing corrections are necessary. Namely, Applicant notes that Applicant's Figures (e.g., Fig. 2a) clearly show the supporting member being supported by the supporting member, such as indirectly providing support via the intervening isolator.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 8, 10-12, 15, and 22 would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 8. Applicant has also added new claims 23 (based on claims 1 and 15) and 24 (based on claims 1, 9, and 22).

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Namely, Applicant has replaced the term "contacts" with "supported by" to account for the intervening isolator. Applicant has also chosen to cancel claims 2, 5, 8, and 16. It is thus believed that the new and amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

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It follows that all claims now recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are rendered moot and no response is deemed necessary.

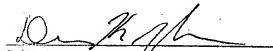
Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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